



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

109. (Sixth Amended) A method of controlling the field of view of any camera in a system in a single area including at least two cameras in the single area, a single automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the cameras and at least two control devices being movable respectively by at least two users independently of the automatic control system and the cameras to a selected location capable of sending commands to the automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the cameras comprising the steps of:

A. associating each of the at least two control devices with respective of at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users;

B. associating at least one field of view of one camera with a control device at a location selected by a respective one of at least two users;

C. remembering by the automatic control system a field of view of the camera associated in step B;

D. issuing a command from one control device of the at least two control devices to the automatic control system;

E. identifying by the automatic control system the control device that issued the command in step D;

~~F. automatically moving by the automatic control system the field of view of the camera~~
to the field of view position remembered in step C and associated with the control device identified in step E;

G. issuing a command from another of the at least two control devices to the automatic camera system;

H. identifying by the automatic control system the control device that issued the command in step G;

I. automatically moving by the automatic control system the field of view of the camera to the field of view position remembered in step C and associated with the control device identified in step H; and

J. remembering by the automatic control system the control device that issued the [respective] command in step D after the command of step G [steps D and G after a respective command] has been received by the automatic control system and after each [the respective] command has been implemented by the automatic control system.

126. (Fifth Amended) A method of controlling the field of view of any camera in a single area in a system having at least two cameras in the single area, a single automatic control system for controlling the field of view of each of the at least two cameras and at least two control devices in the single area being movable by at least two users in the single area independently of the automatic control system and the at least two cameras to selected locations capable of sending commands to the automatic control system for controlling the field of view of each of the at least two cameras comprising the steps of:

A. associating each of the at least two control devices with respective at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users;

B. associating at least one field of view of each of at least two cameras with a respective control device at locations selected by a respective one of at least two users;

C. remembering by the automatic control system a field of view of each of at least two cameras associated in step B;

D. issuing a command from any of the at least two control devices to the automatic control system;

E. identifying by the automatic control system the control device that issued the command in step D;

F. associating any of the at least two control devices with a respective first camera of the at least two cameras;

G. associating any of the at least two control devices with a respective second camera of the at least two cameras;

H. changing the field of view position of one of the at least two cameras associated with a field of view remembered in step C to provide a field of view position remembered in step C associated with the control device in step E; and

I. remembering by the automatic control system the control device that issued the command of step D after the command has been issued and after the respective command has been implemented by the automatic control system and after any subsequent command of step D.

138. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 134 wherein step I includes the steps of:

- K. establishing a plurality of groups of the at least two control devices; and
- L. selectively enabling audio signals associated with at least one group established in step K.

163. (Sixth Amended) A system for controlling the field of view variables of any camera in the system in a single area comprising at least two cameras in a single area, a single automatic control means for adjusting said field of view control variables of each said camera, at least two control devices being movable respectively by at least two users independently of said automatic control means and each said camera, said automatic control means including means for associating each of said at least two control devices with respective at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users and for associating said field of view of each said camera with respective control device at a location selected by the respective of at least two users, said control devices being movable to selected locations for sending commands to said automatic control means including first circuit means for identifying one said control device of said at least two control devices in said selected locations that has sent a command to said automatic control means and memory means for identifying each said command sent by said one control device, said command including identity information indicative of respective said one control device, which sent said command, said automatic control means remembering said identity information of said one control device after said command has been sent by said one control device to enable said field of view to be moved to one of the fields remembered and after said command sent by said one control device has been implemented by said automatic control means, said automatic control means further including second circuit means for identifying another said control device of said at least two control devices in said selected location that has sent a command to said automatic control means and memory means for identifying each said command sent by said another control device, said command including identity information indicative of respective said another device which sent said command, said automatic control means remembering said identity information of said another control device after said command has been sent by said another control device to enable said field of view to be moved to one of the fields remembered and after said command sent by said another control device has been implemented by said automatic control means and

after a subsequent said command by said one control device has been implemented by said automatic control means.

166. (Sixth Amended) A method of controlling the field of view of any camera in a system in a single area including at least two cameras in a single area, a single automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the cameras and at least two control devices being movable respectively by at least two users independently of the automatic control system and the camera to a selected location capable of sending commands to the automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the camera comprising the steps of:

A. associating each of at least two control devices with respective at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users;

B. associating at least one field of view of a camera with a control device at a location selected by a respective at least two users;

C. remembering by the automatic control system the variables that define each field of view of the camera associated in step B;

D. automatically identifying by the automatic control system the field of view variable of a camera that a control device associated with the variables remembered in step C;

~~F. issuing a command from the control device identified in step D;~~

F. automatically changing the field of view of a camera to the field of view remembered in step C and associated with a control device identified in step D;

G. automatically identifying by the automatic control system the field of view variable another control device associated with the variables remembered in step C;

H. issuing a command from the control device identified in step G;

I. automatically changing the field of view of the camera to the field of view remembered in step C and associated with a control device identified in step G; and

J. remembering by the automatic control system the control device that issued the [respective] command in step E after the command of step H [steps E and H after a command] has been issued and after each [the respective] command has been implemented.

REMARKS

1. The present invention is directed towards a system having a plurality of personal locator devices that issue commands to an automatic control system that controls one or more cameras. Once the field of view variables are established for each personal locator via a series of commands from the locator a camera will be moved towards each person who operates the associated locator device. The automatic control system remembers which field of view is associated with each locator device regardless of how many other devices have sent commands to the system since a particular device sent a command. And when any locator is operated to move the camera to a desired field of view, the system moves the camera to the predetermined field of view that has been remembered and associated with the operated locator. Moreover, the system remembers the locator that issued a command regardless of the number of other locators that have sent commands since an earlier command by the user's locator. Uehara '543 discloses no such capability and does not teach or suggest the need for such capability.

2-3. Claim 138(Amended) has been further amended to recite at least two control devices thereby correcting any indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

4-5. Claims 109, 126, 163, and 166 as presently amended are not anticipated by Uehara 5,917,543.

~~Claim 109(Fifth Amended) has been further amended to recite in step J "remembering by~~ the automatic control system the control device that issued the command in step D after a command of step G has been received by the automatic control system and after each command has been implemented by the automatic control system" (emphasis added). The Uehara '543 reference has no such capability.

The present invention is specifically created to allow a user to command the automatic control system to return a camera to a previously set field of view even with intervening commands from other devices. Uehara recites no such capability because that disclosure is directed toward correcting for overshoot and undershoot in camera movements that occur because of communication system delays.

Claim 126(Fourth Amended) has been further amended to recite in step I that the remembering of the control device continues "after any subsequent command of step D" with respect to an earlier command of step D thus clearly distinguishing over the cited art which discloses no such capability as discussed hereinabove.

Claim 163 (Fifth Amended) has been further amended to recite that said automatic control means remembers said identity information from said another device after said command from said another device has been implemented “and after a subsequent said command by said one control device has been implemented by said automatic control means”. Uehara recites no such capability as discussed hereinabove.

Claim 166 (Fifth Amended) has been further amended to recite in step J “remembering by the automatic control system the control device that issued the command in step E after a command of step H has been issued and after each command has been implemented”(emphasis added) thereby clearly distinguishing over the cited reference.

Accordingly, Claims 109(Sixth Amended), 126(Fifth Amended), 163(Sixth Amended), 166(Sixth Amended) are not anticipated by Uehara ‘543 and are taught or suggested by any appropriate combination of the cited art.

6-7. Claims 110-125, 127-137, 141-162, as presently amended are dependent upon the respective amended independent claim and are not obvious in light of Uehara ‘543 and Parker ‘296.

Parker ‘296 does not teach or suggest the use of a plurality of personal locator devices that send commands to an automatic control system and does not teach or suggest having a device remembered as having sent a command and remembered even with commands having been sent from other devices. The systems of Uehara ‘543 and Parker ‘296 are fundamentally different system and applicants believe that the references cannot be combined as the Examiner suggests.

The Federal Circuit has recently reviewed the standards that are to be applied in analyzing an application for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103 in the case of In re Lee, 277 F3d 1338, 61 USPQ 2d 1430 (2002).

The Court stated that it is fundamental that a rejection for obviousness must be based on evidence that is comprehended by the language of the statute. When the issue is obviousness “the search for and analysis of the prior art includes evidence relevant to the finding of whether there is teaching, motivation, or suggestion to select and combine the references relied on as evidence of obviousness.” Accordingly, the central question is whether there are reasons to combine the references. Teachings of references can be combined only if there is some suggestion or incentive to do so.

The Court further found that the case law required that there must be some motivation, suggestion, or teaching regarding the desirability of making the specific combination that was made by the applicant. The Court further stated:

“Our case law makes clear that the best defense against the subtle but powerful attraction of a hindsight-based obviousness analysis is rigorous application of the requirement for a showing of the teaching or motivation to combine prior art references.”

Lee at 1433, quoting In re Dembiczak, 175 F3d 994, 999, 50 USPQ 2d 1614, 1617 (Fed. Cir. 1999).

The Court further found that the need for specificity was pervasive in the prior case law and that

“particular findings must be made as to the reason the skilled artisan, with no knowledge of the claimed invention, would have selected these components for combination in the manner claimed”

quoting In re Kotzab, 217 F3d 1365, 1371, 55 USPQ 2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

In addition, the factual question of motivation is material to patentability and cannot be resolved on subjective belief and unknown authority, Lee at 1434.

In the Kotzab case, the Federal Circuit Court stated:

“A critical step in analyzing the patentability of claims pursuant to section 103(a) is casting the mind back to the time of invention, to consider the thinking of one of ordinary skill in the art, guided only by the prior art references and the then-accepted wisdom in the field...Close adherence to this methodology is especially important in cases where the very ease with which the invention can be understood may prompt one ‘to fall victim to the insidious effect of a hindsight syndrome wherein that which only the invention taught is used against its teach.’... Most if not all inventions arise from a combination of old elements...Thus, every element of a claimed invention may often be found in the prior art...However, identification in the prior art of each individual part claimed is insufficient to defeat patentability of the whole claimed invention...Rather, to establish obviousness based on a combination of the elements disclosed in the prior art, there must be some motivation, suggestion, or teaching of the desirability of making the specific combination that was made by the applicant...Even when obviousness is based on a single prior art reference, there must be a showing of a suggestion or motivation to modify the teachings of that reference...The motivation, suggestion or teaching may come explicitly from

statements in the prior art, the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, or, in some cases the nature of the problem to be solved...In addition, the teaching, motivation, or suggestion may be implicit from the prior art as a whole, rather than expressly stated in the references...The test for an implicit showing is what the combined teachings, knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, and the nature of the problem to be solved as a whole would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art.” [At 1316-1317(all internal citations omitted)].

With respect to all the various individually treated claims in the above Office Action, while it may be true that Uehara, Parker, and even Sano disclose some of the features of the claims, it is not at all obvious in light of the cited art that they be employed with the features of the other prior art without reference to various methods and steps disclosed and claimed in the present application. The presently claimed system employs both identifying and remembering which control device issues what command so as to coordinate the activities of the system users and does so via a single automatic control system employing at least two cameras as discussed hereinabove. Moreover, the devices and commands are remembered when subsequent commands from other devices are implemented. These features are not taught or suggested by any appropriate combination of the prior art.

8. Claims 138-140 as now amended are believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Uehara, Parker and Sano. Claim 138 (Twice Amended)-recites a group of control devices at a single site under control of a single automatic control system, as contrasted to Sano's plurality of conference sites. Claims 138-140 as now amended are directed to the control of audio signals from the control devices being used, which are not found in any of the applied prior art, nor would it be obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art. Claim 126(Fifth Amended) is now amended as discussed hereinabove upon which Claims 138-140 as now amended ultimately depend. In practice there may be several control devices in use and this feature is not found in the prior art.

Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 138-140 as now amended are not obvious in light of the cited art.

9. The present amendment does not raise any new issues but simply adds further limitations to the disclosed invention not previously believed necessary to define over the art of record.

The present amendment does not raise new matter issues because the use of the system with the remembering of a device that issues command even after other devices issue a command has been disclosed from the date of the original filing.

The present amendment materially simplifies the issues presented by focusing on the fact that Uehara '543 does not disclose the capability to remember a control device having issued a command after another device issues a command.

Furthermore, no additional claims are presented.

10. A telephone interview is respectfully requested to resolve any remaining issue prior to any further action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



Arthur G. Yeager, Reg. No. 19,892

Suite 1305,
112 West Adams Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202-3853
Tel: (904) 355-9631
Fax: (904) 355-9632
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